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Sir Arnold White, Chief Justice.

The retirement of our Chief Justice has now become a settled fact. In his speech at the Law dinner last year, he referred to this event as fairly certain, but latterly new expectations had been created and his continuance in office seemed so probable that when the news of his retirement was received a few days ago it was not readily believed. We have no doubt that his retirement will be widely regretted and his genial presence will be missed in the Madras High Court.

Sir Arnold White came out to Madras as Advocate General in 1898, and soon established for himself a high reputation as an advocate. But he had been only a short time at the local Bar, when on the retirement of Sir Arthur Collins in 1899, he was appointed to succeed him as Chief Justice. The hope was then expressed in the pages of this Journal that "Sir Arthur Collin's successor may raise the prestige and dignity of the Court to the level it used to maintain during the days of Sir Walter Morgan and Sir Charles Turner.' We are unable to say that this hope has been realized. Sir Arnold White's tenure of office has been comparatively uneventful except for the increase in the number of Judges but it will be remembered for the example that he set, of affability, courtesy and good manners on the bench, and as we said on a former occasion "So long as these qualities and calm and patient hearing are appreciated, the Chief Justice is not likely to be forgotten." Clear and fluent as a speaker, his Lordship had an admirable facility in summing up a long case to a Jury or delivering an oral judgment after a protracted trial.

But it cannot be said that during his long stay here his Lordship has been able to make an impression of superior ability or great erudition. It was not infrequently felt that he was not quite certain as to his own mind, and that a strong inclination of opinion on the part of his colleague carried the day. His poor health not only necessitated frequent absences but even seemed sometimes to stand in the way of sustained exertion. In regard to his arrangements for the sittings of the Judges, it is only right to say that the Bar often felt that this could have been better done. Murmurs have also occasionally been heard against the way in which he exercised the patronage belonging to his high office. But such short comings notwithstanding, we have no hesitation in endorsing the verdict that he pronounced upon himself that he has striven to do his best. We wish him long life to enjoy his well-earned rest at home.